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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------063718 130151Z /75
R 121825Z SEP 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5822
ALL NATO CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T NATO 08703

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR,NATO
SUBJECT: ALLIANCE EAST WEST STUDY -- ASSESSMENT

REF: STATE 217497
1. DANISH PERM REP SVART AND I CALLED ON CANADIAN AMBASSADOR HARDY AFTERNOON 12 SEPTEMBER TO DISCUSS EAST-WEST STUDY AND IDEA THAT THREE-MAN TEAM COMPOSED OF SVART,KILLICK AND FORD TAKE THE LEAD IN PREPARING THE ASSESSMENT ASPECT OF THE STUDY. SVART MADE CLEAR HIS PERSONAL SATISFACTION OVER PROSPECT OF WORKING CLOSELY WITH FORD ON A PAPER AND SAID, AS A FORMER COLLEAGUE OF FORD IN MOSCOW, HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT FORD WOULD BE INTERESTED IN TAKING PART DESPITE HIS PHYSICAL PROBLEM. WE INDICATED TO HARDY THAT KILLICK WAS PREPARED TO SERVE PENDING AUTHORIZATION FROM LONDON.

2. HARDY ARGUED MATTER BACK AND FORTH IN HIS USUAL INDECSIVE WAY, BUT AGREED READILY TO TRANSMIT REQUEST TO FORD AND TO FOREIGN OFFICE IN OTTAWA. ALTHOUGH WE CLARIFIED POINT OF PREVIOUS CANADIAN CONFUSION BY STRESSING THAT PART III OF STUDY, IMPLICATIONS, WAS NOT INVOLVED,
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HARDY CONTINUED TO WORRY ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF FRENCH OBJECTIONS AND SEEMED TO THINK WE SHOULD "CLEAR IT WITH THE FRENCH". SVART EMPHASIZED THAT WE WERE ATTEMPTING TO GET AGREEMENT OF THREE-MAN TEAM TO SERVE BEFORE BROADENING CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, AND AT ONE POINT OBSERVED RATHER TESTILY THAT FRENCH SHOULD NOT BE REWARDED BECAUSE OF THEIR PROPENSITY TO MAKE DIFFICULTIES.

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HE POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD NOT BE FAIR TO OTHER MEMBERS
OF THE COUNCIL TO APPROACH THE FRENCH ON A PRIORITY BASIS.
HARDY SOMEWHAT RELUCTANTLY AGREED.

3. AS SVART SEES IT, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR FORD TO
COME TO BRUSSELS TWO OR THREE TIMES BEGINNING IN NOVEMBER
AND SPEND TWO OR THREE DAYS EACH TIME. HE EXPRESSED
CONFIDENCE THAT FORD WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET
OUT OF MOSCOW FROM TIME TO TIME, AND INDEED THE TWO
HAD DISCUSSED THAT POSSIBILITY BEFORE THE EAST-WEST STUDY
DEVELOPED. SVART SUGGESTED THAT INITIATION OF WORK ON PART
II NEED NOT WAIT UNTIL COMPLETION OF PART I OF THE STUDY.
HE THINKS ASSESSMENT PORTION SHOULD BE FINISHED BY END OF
JANUARY IN LINE WITH PUSHING FORWARD ON THE STUDY AND
GETTING IT FULLY REVIEWED AND COMPLETED IN TIME FOR THE
WASHINGTON SUMMIT. MEETING CLOSED WITH HARDY'S AGREEMENT
TO PUT MATTER UP TO FORD AND TO OTTAWA.
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4. AFTER WE LEFT HARDY, I RAISED WITH SVART POSSIBILITY
OF AN APPROACH BY HIM AND KILLICK TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY
JUNG TO ARRANGE SPC HANDLING OF THREE-MAN TEAM. SVART
COMMENTED THAT THE MATTER WOULD REQUIRE DELICATE HANDLING
AND INDICATED HE WOULD BE QUITE READY TO UNDERTAKE IT
IN COMPANY OF KILLICK ONCE ALL THREE MEMBERS OF PROPOSED
TEAM HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED TO PARTICIPATE. BENNETT
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